

1-8. Cancelled.

9. (New) A method of forming a superabsorbent, water-resistant coating on at least a portion of a surface of an article, the method comprising:

(a) preparing a liquid coating composition including an aqueous solution having substantially no particulate components comprising:

(i) a water-soluble, superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer precursor in aqueous solution;

(ii) a non-particulate viscosity modifying agent provided in the form of an aqueous solution or dispersion; and

(iii) a binder in aqueous solution or emulsion;

(b) applying the liquid coating composition to at least a portion of a surface of the article;

(c) volatilizing at least a substantial portion of water of the aqueous solution by drying the liquid coating composition; and

(d) heating the article to cure the superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer precursor by cross-linking to form the superabsorbent, water-resistant coating including a superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer that absorbs water when it is wetted and desorbs water when it is dried.

10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein applying the liquid coating composition to at least a portion of a surface of the article includes contacting the liquid coating composition with at least the portion of the surface of the article to form a layer of liquid over at least the portion of the surface.

11. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein heating the article to cure the superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer precursor by cross-linking includes heating the article to one of any temperatures less than approximately 300 degrees F.

12. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein volatilizing at least a substantial portion of water of the aqueous solution by drying the liquid coating composition includes heating the article to a temperature of about 212 degrees F.

13. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer precursor is selected from the group consisting of anionic alkali salts and alkali metal salts of the superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer.
14. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the viscosity modifying agent is selected from the group consisting of alkyl celluloses, acrylamide polymers and mixtures thereof compatible with the superabsorbent polymer precursor solution and the binder in aqueous solution or dispersion.
15. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the viscosity modifying agent includes a polyacrylamide aqueous solution.
16. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the binder includes a film forming binder.
17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the film forming binder is selected from the group consisting of polyesters, polyurethanes, epoxies, latexes and mixtures thereof.
18. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein preparing a liquid coating composition including an aqueous solution further includes adding at least one of one or more wetting agents and one or more lubricants.

19. (New) A method of forming a superabsorbent, water-resistant coating on at least a portion of a surface of an article, the method comprising:

(a) preparing a liquid coating composition including an aqueous solution having substantially no particulate components comprising:

(i) a water-soluble, superabsorbent polymer precursor in aqueous solution;

(ii) a non-particulate viscosity modifying agent provided in the form of an aqueous solution or dispersion; and

(iii) a binder in aqueous solution or emulsion;

(b) applying the liquid coating composition to at least a portion of a surface of the article;

(c) heating the article to dry the coating and to cure the superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer precursor by cross-linking, the superabsorbent, water-resistant coating including a superabsorbent polyacrylate polymer that absorbs water when it is wetted and desorbs water when it is dried.